



Communications Office

The City of Morgantown

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July 3, 2012

Morgantown Police Expand Service to Include Permanent Downtown Foot Patrol

Fifteen-year veteran police officer Steve Bennett will fill the permanent position beginning July 3, 2012.

MORGANTOWN – The Morgantown Police Department is increasing its downtown patrols with a foot patrol officer in an effort to ease concerns of business owners and residents along the High Street area.

PFC Steve Bennett starts today as the full-time downtown officer, responsible for answering the questions and concerns of those who work, live, and play downtown.

His shift will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and his responsibilities include walking the downtown area, talking to local business owners, answering questions, addressing concerns, and improving the quality of life in Morgantown.

Bennett is a 15-year veteran who has served on the bike patrol that services the Rail Trails and downtown area.

“He volunteered for the position,” said Lt. Harold Sperringer, Operations Supervisor. “His excellent people and communication skills are both an asset and a required skill for those working with people and businesses on a daily basis.”

The foot patrol officer position will fall under the Special Services Unit, which also includes bike patrols and special events coverage. The new assignment will help to reinforce the existing bicycle and vehicular patrols that are presently servicing the downtown and Wharf District areas.

Any downtown business wishing to contact Sgt. Bennett will need to call Dispatch, who will contact him. The number there is 304-284-7522. If downtown businesses or offices have any concerns but do not feel comfortable calling 911, they are free to call the MECCA911 non-emergency line at 304-599-6382. The Morgantown Police and the City of Morgantown encourage anyone to report any suspicious activity as it happens so it doesn't turn into a recurring problem.

The Morgantown Police Department is committed to its goal of eliminating crime in our city. Citizens are encouraged to become a **“Partner in Policing”** by reporting suspected criminal activity to Morgantown Police Department Switchboard at (304) 284-7522. If you need immediate Police attention or a crime is in progress call 911.

If you have questions, please contact Operations Supervisor Lt. Harold Sperringer at 304-284-7496 or hsperringer@cityofmorgantown.org.

